the screw thread formed on the outer periphery of the first shaft **147**, whereby rotation of the first shaft will cause movement of the slider **149** along rails **151** and **153**, thereby drawing the knife edge across plate **115**. Reversal of the rotation of the first shaft **147** by reversal of the rotation of the first stepping motor **139** will drive the slider, and hence the knife edge, back across plate **115**. By alternating the direction of rotation of first stepping motor **139**, the knife edge may be drawn back and forth across plate **115** as needed.

A second stepping motor **157** is also mounted on chamber **117** and is connected via flexible drive cable **159** to gear box **161**. Gear box **161**, in turn, contains gears to drive second shaft **163** upon which friction rollers **165**, **167** are mounted for rotation therewith. Plate **115** is fitted with guide rails **169** and **171** so as to guide wallboard tape beneath rollers **165** and **167**, beneath rails **151** and **153** as well as shaft **147** and over tape supply nozzle **135**.

In operation, a tape passing between guide rails **169** and **171** on plate **115** may be advanced a predetermined amount by actuation of stepping motor **157** so as to cause a predetermined rotation of shaft **163** and the friction rollers **165** and **167** mounted thereon. Likewise, the tape may be cut by actuation of the stepping motor **139** and the concomitant rotation of shaft **147** causing slider **149** (which is fitted with a knife edge) to slide across the width of the tape on plate **115**. In this regard, for example, switch **81** on handgrip **69** can actuate stepping motor **157** so as to cause the tape to advance in a predetermined amount. Likewise, switch **84** can be connected to stepping motor **139** so as to cause movement of slider **149** across the tape. It should be noted, however, that switch **84** alternatively changes the polarity of electrical current fed to stepping motor **139** so as to alternately draw the slider across and then back across the plate **115**. As the tape passes over tape supply nozzle **135** joint compound is applied to the lower face **173** of the tape **175**.

Turning now to FIGS. **8** and **9**, a second plate **177** is releasably attachable to the delivery section **67** of the handle. In this regard, as may best be seen in FIG. **9**, supply nozzles **125** and **127** may be respectively received in passages **179** and **181** in a snap-fit or force-fit manner. Passage **179** communicates with an orifice **183** formed in plate **177**. The orifice **183** is fitted with a gate **185** which is pivotally mounted on plate **177** so as to be moveable from a first position in which fluid passage through the orifice is prevented to a second position (as shown in FIG. **9**) wherein fluid passage through orifice **183** s permitted. The gate may be biased, by a torsion spring **187**, so as to be yieldably urged to the first position. A linkage LK for laterally located gauge wheels GWl opens gate **185** when the unit is pressed against a wall.

In a similar manner, passage **181** communicates with an orifice **189** formed in plate **177**. Orifice **189** is also fitted with a gate **191** pivotally connected to plate **177** so as to be moveable from a first position in which fluid flow through the orifice is prevented and a second position in which fluid flow through the orifice is permitted. Gate **191** may also be biased, as by torsion spring **193**, so as to yieldably urge the gate to the first position and opened by the linkage LK with gate **185**.

Rollers **195**, **197** and **199** may be supported on a shaft **201** which in turn is journaled in a support member **203** carried in bore **205** formed in the plate **177**. A biasing spring **207** yieldably urges the rollers downwardly so as to force the lower side **173** of tape **175** into contact with wallboard **209**. A first resilient wiper blade **211** adjustably mounted in the plate **177** as by a screw support **213** smoothes and spreads joint compound delivered through the orifice **183**. A second flexible wiper blade **215** adjustably mounted in plate **177** as by screw support **217** moves and spreads the joint compound delivered to the wallboard through orifice **189**. A printing roller **219** may be provided with a surface pattern matching the surface pattern of the wallboard **209** so as to aid in disguising the position of the seams formed by the present apparatus. The roller **219** may be supported by support **221** which in turn is pivotally attached to plate **177** and may be biased into contact with the seam surface as by a torsion spring **223**.

As shown in FIG. **10**, the second support plate may also be formed in other configurations so as to allow specialized taping operations, e.g., the taping of inside corners. In this regard, the plate is formed in two sections **177A** and **177B** which are at right angles to one another. A pair of printing rollers **219A** and **219B** is also provided, each of the rollers being disposed so as to imprint one side of the seam. Likewise, a pair of rollers **195A** and **195B** are also provided so as to bias the tape into contact with the respective sides of the seam. A pair of orifices **183A** and **183B** are provided so as to place a first coat of joint compound on the upper surface of the tape and these orifices are controlled in a manner similar to the flat taping head shown in FIGS. **8** and **9** by the provision of gates **185A** and **185B**. Like wise, a pair of second orifices **189A** and **189B** are also provided so as to place a second coat of joint compound on the tape. Although not shown in FIG. **10**, a pair of gates analogous to gate **191** in the flat taping head may also be provided to control the flow of joint compound through orifice **189A** and orifice **189B**. A first wiper **211'** and a second wiper **215'** are also provided so as to spread and smooth the respective coats of joint compound.

In operation, the operator will turn on the apparatus as by the depression of switch **82** which causes power to be supplied to motor **59** which drives pump **13**. However, the pressure developed by pump **13** is insufficient by itself to overcome the biasing action of springs **187** and **193** in maintaining gates **185** and **191** in the closed position. However, joint compound will be supplied through tape supply nozzle **135** to the underside of the wallboard tape. Immediately upon turning on the apparatus, the operator will then activate the wallboard tape advance so as to cause the coating of the bottom portion of a predetermined length of wallboard tape which will then be placed into contact with the wallboard **209** by pressure from rollers **195**, **197** and **199**. The wallboard tape which is so pressed against the wallboard is effectively adhesively adhered to the wallboard and the operator may now move the taping head downwardly (or upwardly) along the wall so as to draw tape from the tape supply wheel (the rollers **165** and **167** permitting such passage of the tape slidingly thereover). With the beginning of motion of the taping head across the wall, the operator may then activate motor **61** driving pump **15** so as to overcome the bias of springs **187** and **198** holding gates **185** and **191** shut. By controlling the operation of pump **15**, the operator may control the amount of joint compound being fed to the head so as to suit the particular application conditions being dealt with. When the operator comes to the end of the stroke, the knife edge carried on slider **149** may be activated so